

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

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FM USDEL JEC PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 162

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USDEL JEC PARIS 31393

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJECT: GVN-PRG BILATERALS: 31ST PLENARY SESSION, DECEMBER 7, 1973

REF: A. USDEL: JEC: PARIS 31087

B. USDEL:JEC: PARIS 30143

1. SUMMARY. THE HOUR-LONG MEETING CONSISTED MAINLY OF RESPRETIVE ACCUSATIONSANEDEMANDS CONCERNING THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SVN. PHONG (GVN) ALLEGED THAT MORE THAN 100,000 NVA REGULARS AND 600 TANKS HAD BEEN I FILTRATED SINCE THE JANUARY AGREEMENT, WHILE THI (PRG) CHARGED THAT THE US AND GVN HAD COMMITTED OVER 292,000 VIOLATIONS OF THE AGREEMENT AND JOINT COMMUNIQUE. GN PROPOSALS INCLUDED THE SIX-PART CEASEFIRE PLAN (PUT FORWARD AT THE NOVEMBER 20 TPJMC MEETING) AND A CALL FOR CONSTRUCTIVE ACTION AT LA CELLE THROUGH REGULARLY SCHEDULED, NON-POLMICAL SESSIONS, CREATION OF WORKING GROUPS, AND SETTING A TIMETABLE CULMINATING IN GENERAL ELECTIONS. THI DID NOT MODIFY EARLIER PRG DEMANDS. IT WAS AGREED TO RECONVENE DECEMBER 14. END SUMMARY.

2. PHONG, ACTING CHIEF, GVNDEL, LED OFF BY REJECTING THE PRG FIVE-POINT CEASE FIRE PROPOSAL (REF. B) AS AN OLD PLAN DATING FROM THE JULY 13 TPJMC SESSION. HE OFFERED INSTEAD THE GVN SIX-PART PLAN PUT OORWARD AT THE
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NOVEMBER 20 TPJMC MEETING. IN LISTING THE PRG SIDES

VIOLATIONS PHONG MENTIONED THE NVA BE ATTACK AND ALLEGED THAT AT KIEN DUC THE 265TH, 271ST, AND 272ND NV REGIMENTS, ASSISTED BY TWENTY T-54 TANKS, HAD CARRIED OUT THE OPERATION. HE ASKED Rhetorically HOW SUCH WARFARE, COMBINED WITH PRG WALKOUTS FROM, AND BOYCOTTS OF, TPJMC SESSIONS COULD POSSIBLY BE SQUARED WITH PRG PRETENSIONS OF SEEKING AN EFFECTIVE CEASEFIRE. SINCE JANUARY MORE THAN A HUNDRED THOUSAND NVA REGULARS AND SIX HUNDRED TANKS HAD BEEN BROUGHT INTO SVN, PHONG CONTINUED. OVER A HALF MILLION NVA REGULARS WERE NOW DEPLOYED IN LAOS, CAMBODIA, AND SVN, EVIDENCE THAT HANOI CONSIDERS INDO-CHINA "A SINGLE BATTLEFIELD".

3. PHONG CHALLENGED THE PRG TO ACT CONSTRUCTIVELY IN THE BILATERAL TALKS, AND PROPOSED A THREE-PART PROCEDURAL APPROACH. FIRST, THE TWO SIDES WOULD MEET IN REGULARLY SCHEDULED PLENARY SESSIONS DEVOID OF POLEMICS. SECOND, THEY WOULD FORM WORKING GROUPS TO DISCUSS CONCRETE PROBLEMS IN VARIOUS FIELDS. THIRD, THEY WOULD SET A PRECISE TIMETABLE FOR COMPLETING NEGOTIATIONS TASKS AND ORGANIZING POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT, TO CULMINATE IN INTERNATIONALLY SUPERVISED GENERAL ELECTIONS.

4. PRG "AMBASSADOR" THI, DEPUTY CHIEF OF HIS DELEGATION, ACCUSED THE US AND GVN OF HAVING COMMITTED OVER 292,000 VIOLATIONS OF THE AGREEMENT AND JOINT COMMUNIQUE BY NOVEMBER 30. HIS LONG BILL OF PARTICULARS INCLUDED CLAIMS THAT THE ENTIRE ARVN 23RD DIVISION WAS ENGAGED IN OPERATIONS AGAINST PRG TERRITORY IN QUANG DUC, THAT EVEN RECENT TYPHOON VICTIMS HAD BEEN AMONG THOSE TERRORIZED BY GVN POLICE OPERATIONS, AND THAT WIDE-SPREAD FAMINE HAD RESULTED FROM GVN WAR POLICY.

5. THI EMPHASIZED PRG-DRV SOLIDARITY IN SEVERAL REFERENCES THROUGHOUT HIS PREPARED STATEMENT. FOR EXAMPLE, HE MENTIONED THE "CONCERTED PRG-DRV STRUGGLE FOR APPLICATION OF THE AGREEMENT". THI ATTEMPTED TO DISCREDIT THE US IN PARTICULARLY TRENCHEANT TERMS. FOR EXAMPLE, THI ALLEGED THAT US POLICY WAS THE ROOT CAUSE OF THE SERIOUS SITUATION IN SVN, YET THE US "HAD THE GALL" TO

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SLANDER AND THREATEN THE PRG AND DRV IN RECENT OFFICIAL STATEMENTS SUCH AS THOSE BY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER. THI MADE THE FAMILIAR DEMANDS UPON THE GVN AND ADDED THAT THE US MUST END ITS MILITARY INVOLVEMENT, INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL SVN AFFAIRS, ILLEGAL MILITARY AID TO THE GVN, AND RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS OVER THE TERRITORY OF THE PRG AND DRV, AND IMMEDIATELY WITHDRAW ALL US MILITARY AND INTELLIGENCE PERSONNEL "DISGUISED AS CIVILIANS."

6. THERE WERE SOME EXCHANGES OF IMPROMPTU REMARKS-
A RELATIVELY RARE OCCURENCE-BUT THESE WERE OF NO
SUBSTANTIVE IMPORT. THI STRENUOUSLY DENIED THAT ANY NVA
FORCES WERE PRESENT IN SVN DESPITE PHONGS REPEATED
EFFORTS TO OBTAIN SUCH AN ADMISSION. IT WAS AGREED TO
MEET AGAIN DECEMBER 14.

7. AT THE PRG POST-SESSION PRESS CONFERENCE SPOKESMAN LY
VAN SAU ANNOUNCED THAT HE WAS RETURNING TO SVN AND WOULD
BE SUCCEEDED BY DUONG DIN THAO. SAU REJECTED PHONGS
THREE PROCEDURAL PROPOSALS AS OLD AND UELSS. THE US,
SAU ALLEGED, WAS ENTIRELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PRESENT
SITUATION IN SVN. IN BITTER CRITICISM OF THE SECRETARYS
DECEMBER 6 PRESS CONFERENCE SAU ALLEGED THAT THE US WAE
TRYING TO "WASH ITS HANDS" OF RESPONSIBILITY ALTHOUGH
TE US HAD NEVER CEASED TO "ENCOURAGE, SUPPORT, AND
DIRECT" PRESIDENT THIEU IN THE LATTERS POLICY OF
"AGRESSIVE WAR". AS EVIDENCE SAU ALLEGED THAT THE US
CONDUCTED VIRTUALLY CONTINUOUS RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS,
HAD BROUGHT IN 750,000 TONS OF WAR MATERIEL IN THE LAST
TWO MONTHS, AND HAD DEPLOYED OVER 24,000 DISGUISED
MILITARY ADVISORS. (SAU WAS VISIBLY ANNOYED WHEN HE
ENDED THIS SWAN SONG, INVITED PRESS QUESTIONS, AND THERE
WERE NONE). MOSSLER

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